

depends on the technological advancements made by future American innovators in a global marketplace.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation honors America's leading innovators of technology products, processes and concepts. Mr. Cutler and the other winners deserve our heartfelt congratulations and thanks for inspiring future American innovation.

The 8th District of Washington, the district I represent, includes the headquarters of Microsoft, a corporation at the forefront of technological innovation and the push for educating our young people in the intricacies of science, technology and mathematics. No doubt Mr. Cutler, a senior technical fellow at Microsoft and an enduring figure in the world of technology and innovation, also recognizes the importance of educating our young people to compete in a global marketplace. Nothing can replace a world-class math and science education; an invaluable key to our Nation's economic success and our Nation's national security.

Once again, congratulations to Mr. Cutler for his prestigious honor. His work and the work of others like him inspire brilliant young minds around our country to do great things in math, science and technology. It is the job of this body and Americans everywhere to ensure those young minds have all the tools necessary to achieve greatness.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE VOTING IRREGULARITIES OF AUGUST 2, 2007

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, Mr. PENCE and I submit for the RECORD the following statement on behalf of the Select Committee on the Voting Irregularities of August 2, 2007:

The Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2, 2007, was created by House Resolution 611 to investigate the circumstances surrounding the record vote on the motion to recommit on H.R. 3161. That resolution required that the Select Committee submit its final report not later than September 15, 2008. While the Select Committee will not be able to file its report by that date, we expect to file the report shortly thereafter.

WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT,
Chairman.
MIKE PENCE,
Ranking Republican Member.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENE UPSHAW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and accomplishments of Gene Upshaw, a tremendous athlete and upstanding individual who had a successful ca-

reer both on and off the football field. During his 16-year career as a National Football League player, he was an 11-time All-Pro offensive guard for the Oakland Raiders and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1987, his first year of eligibility. He played in 217 league games and appeared in six Pro Bowls. He was named Lineman of the Year in the AFC in 1973 and 1974. In 1977, he was voted top lineman in the NFL, and runner-up for that honor in 1980. Upshaw is the only player in NFL history to play with the same team in three Super Bowls in three different decades—in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.

Not only did Upshaw have an outstanding career on the field, but he also had a distinguished career off the field serving 38 years with the NFL Players Association. Upshaw worked as a player representative and officer for 13 years. He served as alternate representative or player representative for the Raiders from 1970 to 1976 and was a member of the executive committee from 1976 through 1980 when he was elected president of the NFLPA, a post he held until 1983.

Upshaw served as Executive Director of the NFLPA from June 1983 up until his death on August 20, 2008. As the first African-American labor leader in a major sport, Upshaw was a forceful advocate on behalf of professional football players. During his tenure, Upshaw skillfully negotiated several collective bargaining agreements and extensions that have been credited with enhancing the rights and compensation of NFL players.

Upshaw's career was best summed up by his close friend Art Shell, who played next to him on Oakland's offensive line and in 1989 became the first African-American coach of the modern era when he took over the Raiders. "Gene was a true pioneer as one of the few African-American leaders of a major union. He was the equal of owners in negotiations and made the league a better place for all players. Playing alongside of Gene was an honor and a privilege. He was a pillar of strength and leadership for our great Raider teams."

I extend my heartfelt condolences and prayers to his wife, Terri, his three sons, Justin, Daniel, and Eugene, Jr., and the entire National Football League community.

THE 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2001, America and the world watched in horror as our Nation came under ruthless attack. At the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon, thousands were killed by the cowardly deeds of terrorists. We heard the stories of those heroic passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who gave their lives so that they might save the lives of others by thwarting an attack on the United States Capitol.

In lower Manhattan, part of my congressional district, New York's finest and bravest rushed to the disaster site. In the days and weeks after, countless Americans would also come to New York to offer their assistance.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed at the World Trade Center, and countless others were wounded.

Since then, we have made tremendous progress in rebuilding. But we still have work left to do. One of our greatest national responsibilities right now is to aid those people who are still suffering from 9/11—our first responders and rescue workers, local area workers, residents, students, and others who have become sick from the environmental aftermath of 9/11.

When the buildings of the World Trade Center came crumbling down, nearly half a million pounds of lead, asbestos, glass fibers, steel, and concrete formed a massive cloud of toxic dust and smoke that blanketed parts of New York City and New Jersey. Fires burned for months, emitting a whole host of deadly substances. Scientists have said that this dust was as caustic as Drain-o, and that the air quality was worse than during the Kuwaiti oil fires.

From the beginning, we warned that the air wasn't safe and that our courageous first responders were not being afforded the proper protection from dangerous toxins as they were toiling on the pile to rebuild. We spent years working to try to convince public officials that the asbestos, fiberglass and other toxins had travelled far and settled into the interiors of residences, workplaces and schools, and that a proper testing and cleanup program was required to eliminate the health risks to area residents, workers and students. We demanded that the Federal Government acknowledge the fact, supported by a mountain of peer-reviewed research, that thousands of our Nation's citizens are today sick from 9/11 and that many more could become sick in the future. We explained to whoever would listen that our 9/11 heroes were struggling to pay health care costs because they could no longer work and no longer had health insurance, and we have argued vigorously that the Federal response to date has been dangerously limited, piecemeal and unstable.

Thankfully, we have achieved a much more widespread recognition of many of these problems. Now, 7 years after the attacks, it is imperative that Congress do what is right for our heroes and our living victims by passing H.R. 6594, the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Though the devastating 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center occurred within the bounds of my congressional district, we know that these were really attacks on our Nation as a whole—figuratively and literally. Every member in New York's downstate delegation represents hundreds, if not thousands, of people who live, work, attend school, or were otherwise present in the affected areas, and were exposed to a toxic brew of contamination. Indeed, every member in this House represents a State that has people in the World Trade Center Health Registry who were exposed and are concerned about their health.

And as this is unquestionably a national problem, it has always required a national response. But despite our sustained efforts to get the Administration to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with this growing public health problem that they themselves now finally acknowledge, the New York delegation has instead found itself, year after year, coming to Congress with its "hat in hand" to test its luck at the annual appropriations process. Thankfully, with the outstanding bipartisan

support of my colleagues for that funding, we have had some key successes. But this is simply no longer a tenable course of action.

Passage of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act would mark an end to this unpredictable approach and ensure that a consistent source of funding is available to monitor, and if necessary, treat, the thousands of first responders, community members, and others already affected by WTC-related illnesses as well as those who are most likely to become sick in the future. And it would make sure that no matter where an affected individual were to live in the future, he or she could get care. Building on the expertise of the existing Centers of Excellence, the bill would fill key gaps in how we are currently providing treatment and monitoring. And finally, this legislation would provide an opportunity for compensation for economic damages and losses by reopening the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

On this anniversary of one of the most devastating days in our national consciousness, I thank members of Congress and the American people for coming to our aid after September 11th and in the years that followed. And once again, I implore you to pass the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the National Preparedness Month Resolution, which recognizes that the month of September is designated as National Preparedness Month. This measure applauds the public servants at Department of Homeland Security for their outstanding contributions to our Nation's homeland security and encourages citizens around the world to continue to prepare themselves and their families for acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

It has been 7 years since the horrific terrorist attacks against the United States and its people on September 11, 2001. Our Nation continues to heal from the terrible losses that we suffered and our Government remains vigilant against those who attacked us.

Yet, while our Nation is fortunate that law enforcement agents and emergency response providers have successfully worked hard to prevent any further attacks, we are still vulnerable. We know that precious lives and critical infrastructure continue to be targeted across the world as evidenced by various suicide bombings in recent years. Terrorism remains prevalent and we must always be prepared both at home and abroad.

I am pleased to have so many members serving as cosponsors to this bill. As we all know, preparedness is not a partisan matter—terrorists do not select their victims by political party. Therefore, we must all support the message that families be prepared for emergencies should they occur.

If a disaster—whether large or small—occurs in a community, local responders and disaster-relief organizations will be there to help, but citizens need to be ready as well. That is why the Department of Homeland Security has

designated the month of September each year as National Preparedness Month. The Department and its key stakeholders will spend the month promoting the importance of being prepared and, most importantly, how to be prepared in our communities across the country. As we all know, when individual citizens, families and communities are prepared, the fear, anxiety, and loss that accompany disasters is substantially minimized.

It is imperative that citizens know what to do in the event of an emergency and be ready either to shelter in place or to evacuate their homes. People must be ready to care for their basic needs for a minimum of 72 hours should they be displaced for a period of time.

And as our Nation continues to glean lessons from catastrophic events such as the September 11th terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government must ensure that preparedness efforts help our Nation's most vulnerable populations. Recent wildfires, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes have given us the opportunity to observe whether those lessons have since been corrected.

In closing, let me say that I applaud the hard work and dedication of the public servants within the Department of Homeland Security in their effort to protect our Nation. Further, I encourage our citizens to make sure their families are vigilant, alert, and prepared for emergencies, and recommend visiting the Web site www.ready.gov, which might greatly assist them in this process. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE MICHIGAN COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND, FLINT OFFICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Michigan Commission for the Blind, Flint Office for celebrating 30 years of service to the blind and visually impaired. The office will gather to commemorate this anniversary at a party on October 30th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

The Michigan Commission for the Blind was created by Public Act 260 of 1978. The Commission operates its central office in Lansing, 8 field offices and a training center in Kalamazoo. As one of the field offices, the Flint Office provides service to clients throughout the Flint and Thumb areas of Michigan.

In carrying out their mission, the Michigan Commission for the Blind provides in-home services, mini-adjustment seminars, business services for employers, a vocational rehabilitation program, independent living for seniors over the age of 55, deafblind services, youth services and the business enterprise program. Their motto is "Changing Lives, Changing Attitudes" and their goals are for the blind and visually impaired to lead productive, independent lives as well as educating the general population about the capabilities of the blind.

The Flint Office plays an integral part in providing service and education to the community. For the past 30 years the 7 person staff has been committed to promoting the welfare

and ability of the visually impaired so they can live and function in our society and in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to congratulate the employees, volunteers and clients of the Michigan Commission for the Blind, Flint Office as they celebrate 30 years of assistance to the blind and visually impaired of mid-Michigan. May they continue their service for many, many years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. NORMAN L. MEBANE, JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, Mr. Norman L. Mebane Jr., was born in Merry Hill, North Carolina. He graduated from high school in Bertie County before earning an associate's degree from Pitt Community College. After 2 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Mebane returned home and worked at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company.

He attended Thomas Nelson Community College, and then earned a bachelor of science degree from St. Augustine's College where he was also inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society and received special recognition as a Presidential Scholar.

Mr. Mebane then worked as a crop and livestock farmer before moving on to the trucking business. He founded N.L. Mebane Trucking Company, Inc. and later founded Mebane Rural Initiative Institute, Inc. and Mebane Investment Properties LLC. His entrepreneurial successes were recognized by North Carolina Department of Transportation with the Minority Business Enterprise Award of the Year.

Mr. Mebane currently serves on the RBC Centura Bank Region II Advisory Board and the Economic Development Council, and he previously served as part of the Historical Hope Foundation, Transportation Development Council, North Carolina Governor's Conference on Small Business and the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Minority Business Expansion Council. Mr. Mebane also serves as a board trustee for Elizabeth City State University and Martin County Community College.

It is certainly fitting that Elizabeth City State University would honor Mr. Mebane because he fully understands the importance of community involvement and he truly dedicates himself to serving others. He is an outstanding member of our community who deserves our highest thanks and praise.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great North Carolinian and American, Mr. Norman L. Mebane, Jr.

MOVING FORWARD FROM 9/11

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, America must move from the errant, retributive justice